

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
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-----113307 252146Z /45

P 252122Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3551
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 12958

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND
EIGHT: SECOND PLENARY MEETING, AUGUST 23, 1978

REF: STATE 205530

CW MESSAGE NO. 8

1. SUMMARY: SECOND PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD AUGUST 23. SOVIET DEL HEAD RESPONDED IN PART TO SEVERAL US PROPOSALS AND QUESTIONS. HE ALSO PROPOSED BROADENING THE COVERAGE OF THE NON-TRANSFER PROVISION AND REQUIRING PARTIES TO DECLARE ALL TRANSFERS SINCE WORLD WAR TWO. IN ADDITION, HE MADE CLEAR THE SOVIET POSITION THAT CHINESE RATIFICATION SHOULD BE A CONDITION FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF A CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. SOVIETS PROPOSED THAT DRAFTING OF JOINT INITIATIVE BE RESUMED AND THAT SCOPE OF PROHIBITION BE FIRST AREA DEALT WITH. END SUMMARY.

2. SECOND PLENARY MEETING OF ROUND EIGHT WAS HELD WEDNES-
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DAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 23, 1978. SOVIET DEL HEAD (AMB. V.I. LIKHACHEV) DELIVERED A PREPARED STATEMENT. SALIENT POINTS ARE REPORTED PARAS 3 - 8 BELOW.

3. LIKHACHEV REAFFIRMED SOVIET REJECTION OF US PROPOSAL THAT PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE BE BANNED, SAYING

THAT THIS QUESTION IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE GOALS OF THE CONVENTION. IN THE SOVIET VIEW, THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ON THE BASIS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION AND IN THE SAME WAY AS PRODUCTION OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. LIKHATCHEV SAID THE SOVIET SIDE SEES NO REASON FOR INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON ANY CHEMICALS (BEYOND THOSE RESULTING FROM THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION).

4. LIKHATCHEV REITERATED THE SOVIET POSITION THAT EACH STATE MUST BE ABLE TO DETERMINE FOR ITSELF THE TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF CHEMICALS NECESSARY FOR PERMITTED NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES, AND THE MEANS FOR USING SUCH CHEMICALS (FOR EXAMPLE, DISSEMINATING DEVICES FOR PROTECTIVE TRAINING.) HE SAID THAT THE STATE NEED ONLY INFORM THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. LIKHATCHEV INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET SIDE COULD ACCEPT THE US PROPOSAL THAT THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF SUPER-TOXIC LETHAL CHEMICALS PERMITTED FOR NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES BE SET AT ONE TON PER YEAR. HE SAID THIS WAS THE LEVEL TO BE ALLOWED THE US AND USSR. FURTHER, THE SOVIET SIDE BELIEVED THAT FOR OTHER STATES THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF SUCH CHEMICALS SHOULD BE SET AT SOME FRACTION OF ONE TON, "CONSIDERING THEIR REAL NEEDS ON THE BASIS OF AN EXPERT EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE." (COMMENT: FROM THESE SOVIET REMARKS, IT IS NOT CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT A STATE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DETERMINE FOR ITSELF AND WHAT THE ROLE

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OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WOULD BE. WE PLAN TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THESE POINTS AND RELATED ASPECTS. END COMMENT)

5. LIKHATCHEV STATED THAT TRANSFER OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS TO NON-PARTIES FOR ANY PURPOSE SHOULD BE PROHIBITED. HE PROPOSED ALSO TO BAN TRANSFER TO NON-PARTIES OF "ANY INCAPACITANTS AND SUCH IRRITANTS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES." (COMMENT: US HAD PROPOSED THAT TRANSFER TO A NON-PARTY OF SUPER-TOXIC CHEMICALS PRODUCED BY A PARTY FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES BE PROHIBITED. END COMMENT)

6. NOTING THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONVENTION MIGHT BE CIRCUMVENTED BY ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES FOR PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS OR THEIR COMPONENTS ON THE TERRITORY OF A NON-PARTY, LIKHATCHEV PROPOSED THAT THE CONVENTION INCLUDE APPROPRIATE NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROVISIONS IN WHICH STATES PARTIES COULD BE REQUIRED TO DECLARE "THE TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE, INCLUDING IRRITANTS, THE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR PRODUCTION AND THE RELEVANT TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION WHICH WERE TRANS-

REFERRED BY THEM TO ANYONE" SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.

7. LIKHATCHEV SAID HE WOULD SPEAK ON THE PROBLEM OF VERIFICATION AT A LATER STAGE.

8. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE FUTURE CONVENTION, LIKHATCHEV MADE CLEAR THAT THE USSR VIEWS THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY CHINA, AS A NECESSARY CONDITION. HE ASKED FOR A MORE DETAILED PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS ON "THE PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES OF CHINA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION." FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE US WILL "CORRECTLY ASSESS THE CONCERN

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EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET SIDE AND EXERT THE NECESSARY EFFORT TOWARD FINDING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION."
(COMMENT: THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO REPRESENT A NEW SOVIET POSITION, BUT IT IS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE EXPLICITLY REFERRED TO ALL PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND MENTIONED CHINA SPECIFICALLY. DEL PLANS TO ADHERE TO POSITION THAT ADHERENCE OF ALL PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT NECESSARY FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE. END COMMENT)

9. US DEL HEAD (AMB. A. S. FISHER) PROMISED TO STUDY THE SOVIET STATEMENT AND TO RESPOND AT A FUTURE MEETING.

10. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, LIKHATCHEV PROPOSED THAT

THE DRAFTING GROUP BEGIN TO WORK OUT COMMON LANGUAGE DEAL-
ING WITH THE SCOPE OF PROHIBITION. AFTER A LENGTHY DIS-
CUSSION IT WAS AGREED THAT, AT ITS NEXT MEETING, THE
DRAFTING GROUP WOULD FOCUS ON SCOPE, BUT THAT EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS ON OTHER SUBJECTS WAS NOT PRECLUDED. (COMMENT: AT
NEXT DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, US
REPS PLAN TO SUMMARIZE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT
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ON SCOPE-RELATED ISSUES AND TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF
SOVIET POSITION ON SOME POINTS RELATED TO SCOPE AND OTHER
TOPICS. US REPS WILL NOT ENGAGE IN DRAFTING AT THAT MEET-
ING. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT US DEL, PURSUANT TO
INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, HAS STATED THAT THE US IS WILLING
TO PROCEED WITH DRAFTING, WE WILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO PRE-
SENT US-PREFERRED FORMULATIONS ON SCOPE IN NEAR FUTURE.
END COMMENT)

11. ACTION REQUESTED: DEL REQUESTS INFORMATION AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE CONCERNING STATUS OF "EXPANDED KEY ELEMENTS",
REFERRED TO IN REFTEL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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